



BROOKE DESNOËS

Biography

Brooke Desnoës / Dance Instructor at Wallace State Community College, Founder and Artistic Director of BD Ballet Academy and Ballet South. She Founded and Directed the *Academie Americaine de Danse de Paris (AADP)* from 1997 to 2017.

An American transplanted in France, Brooke Desnoës is one of the most gifted and prolific teaching artists of her generation, with over twenty years of experience at the international level. The pre-professional training program she founded in Paris opened the doors to successful professional careers for numerous students. Mrs. Desnoës trains her students “from the inside out” and provides them with an educational experience of the highest caliber. *“Brooke is one of the few people I have ever known who sees such a ‘big picture’ and she immediately recognizes what is valuable and where someone’s possibilities could take them. She is not afraid to consider all possible connections and benefits, with a diversity that informs her teaching and choreography that makes for a more complete education in a dancer of today’s time.”* – *Violette Verdy*

Most recently Ms. Desnoes has returned to her native Alabama to create a dance program at Wallace State Community College and conjointly create the Brooke Desnoes Ballet Academy and Ballet South, its junior dance company.

Brooke Desnoës received her early training from Sonia Arova at Alabama School of Performing Arts and went on to dance with ballet companies. She performed under Alexander Bennett’s direction in North America and Europe and has danced a varied repertoire including leading roles in many classic ballets such as *Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Paquita* and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as works by contemporary choreographers. After a period of teaching at The Washington School of Ballet in Washington D.C. under the direction of Mary Day, Brooke Desnoës moved to Paris where she founded The Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris (AADP) in 1997. Over the years, AADP grew to become one of the largest (over 800 students) and most reputable ballet schools in Europe.

While establishing her ballet school in Paris with the support of The Annenberg Foundation, Ms. Desnoës devised several educational programs among which a pre-professional training course that welcomed young dancers from across Europe, North America and Asia. In 2007 she also successfully started a Master Class Series, which gave young talented European dancers the opportunity to study with prominent dancers and instructors such as; Violette Verdy, Suki Schorer, Gailene Stock, Gary Norman, Amanda McKerrow, John Gardner, Deborah Dobson, Karin Averty, Elizabeth Platel and Jolinda Menendez among others. Her students have gone on to study at schools such as; American Ballet Theatre (ABT), The Washington School of Ballet, Atlanta Ballet School of Dance, Alvin Ailey Dance Center, The Boston Ballet

School, The Cranko School, The Royal Ballet School, English National Ballet School, The Joffrey Academy - Chicago, Nutmeg Conservatory, The Rock School and Die Ballettschule des Hamburg Ballett. At the end of their training a number of her dancers joined companies in Europe, North America, Japan and Mexico. In 2010 Brooke created *Le Jeune Ballet Franco-Américain* providing pre-professional dancers, between the age of 17 and 20, the opportunity to perform full length ballets and original choreographies multiple times a year across France and Europe. With her young company, Ms. Desnoës has staged classic ballets as well as her own creations at Le Palais des Congres de Paris, Le Théâtre de Verdure de Ramatuelle, Le Théâtre de Neuilly, Le Centre Culturel de Porto-Vecchio, the Camara Municipal de Caiscais in Portugal and more recently in China on the Yinchuan and Guangzhou campuses of Minzu University.

While directing the AADP, Ms. Desnoës initiated a collaboration with Florida State University, and Columbia Global Centers in Paris. These programs offered US students the opportunity to study ballet at AADP and obtain university credits for the classes successfully completed over a trimester. She is frequently invited to hold master classes in Europe and abroad in classical ballet, variation and in dance history. She is a regular teacher at the Joffrey Academy, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Principia College and is invited to teach at Ruth Page, the University of Cincinnati and New York University/Tisch. She also implemented a series of teacher exchange program with the Joffrey Academy and The Royal Ballet School of London.

Her students can also be found in the finals of international dance competitions such as Youth America Grand Prix, Prix d'Europe, Tanzolymp in Berlin. Brooke is a regular jury member and master teacher to numerous international dance competitions. Ms. Desnoës also formed partnerships with charity organizations and offered community outreach programs for French institutions such as Hopital Necker, Envol, Votre Ecole Chez Vous. Her dancers also performed in several benefit performances hosted by the American, the British and the Czech Republic embassies. Ms. Desnoës also remained at the heart of fundraising and development for AADP.

In 2016 she partnered with the French town of Le Chateau d'Oleron to create a satellite school for AADP. This extension was destined to be the home of an International Summer Ballet School and now serves the local dance community.

Since her return to the United States, Ms. Desnoës has developed the dance curriculum of an associate degree in dance pedagogy and dance performance at Wallace State Community College. Currently Ms. Desnoes is teaching course in Classical Ballet Technique, Pointe, Variations, Dance Pedagogy, Modern dance and Choreography. She oversees the college dance company, Allegro Dance Theatre, and is responsible for rehearsals and all aspects related to performance productions. In addition to her time spent at WSCC Brooke has founded Ballet South a youth company made up of pre-professional students from across North Alabama with the goal of providing quality community outreach performances both for dancers and spectators.

Ms. Desnoës holds a BA in Ballet Pedagogy from Brenau University and an MA in Professional Practice Dance Technique Pedagogy from the University of Middlesex. She obtained the French state ballet teaching certificate in 1993 and has been a member of the "Conseil International de la Danse"/ UNESCO since 2006. She worked directly with the Royal Academy of Dance to coordinate events in Paris where she was granted the title of Mentor in 2009. In 2014, for its 25th anniversary, the Annenberg Foundation identified Brooke Desnoës as one of the 25 vision-driven leaders chosen to represent the 8500 grantees whose visions they supported since its creation.

Brooke Desnoës is committed to the achievement of the highest standard for all of her students. She believes that every dancer must be provided with careful guidance and be offered the opportunity to maximize one's potential through a learning process that involves a deep understanding of the physical, technical and artistic attributes that compose the diverse and multiple facets of ballet.